



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY FOR INNOCENT FAMILY**

#### ***Caught in Middle of Tenant's Drug Dealing***

**SANTA BARBARA, CA** – December 16, 2011. In the annals of police work, arresting high-profile drug dealers is standard operating procedure. In an effort to avoid detection and arrest, many dealers attempt to blend into the community by holding typical jobs or even renting rooms from law abiding people. Such was the case in a drug bust made December 15<sup>th</sup> by SBPD narcotics detectives. After a months-long investigation, detectives arrested Victor Manuel Alejandre, age 52 in the parking lot of Taco Bell at 1804 Cliff Drive. In his vehicle was 2 ounces of crystal methamphetamine. Alejandre was arrested for possession of meth and possession for sales. Detectives then served a search warrant at a residence on Alisos Street. As police were entering through the front door, Leopoldo Jimenez Gonzalez, age 44, punched out a screen and threw a Vanilla Wafers box out a side window. Inside the box was 7 ounces of meth. Gonzalez was arrested for possession of meth, possession for sales, and destruction of evidence.

It turned out that Gonzalez was renting a room in this residence; the other occupants were a family of four: two parents and two children. It took police a few tense moments to determine that this family only rented the room to Gonzalez and had no idea that he was involved in serious drug dealing. While police were searching Gonzalez's room for drug evidence, the children excitedly told detectives their Christmas wish-list. The detectives handling the case were moved by the family's anxiety and apprehension. The circumstances of the family's case were discussed with the Police Activities League (P.A.L.) who offered to help play 'Santa'. Police officers and P.A.L. provided the children with two brand-new bicycles, helmets, and free passes good at local movie theaters. Their tenant's drug dealing just couldn't keep Christmas from coming

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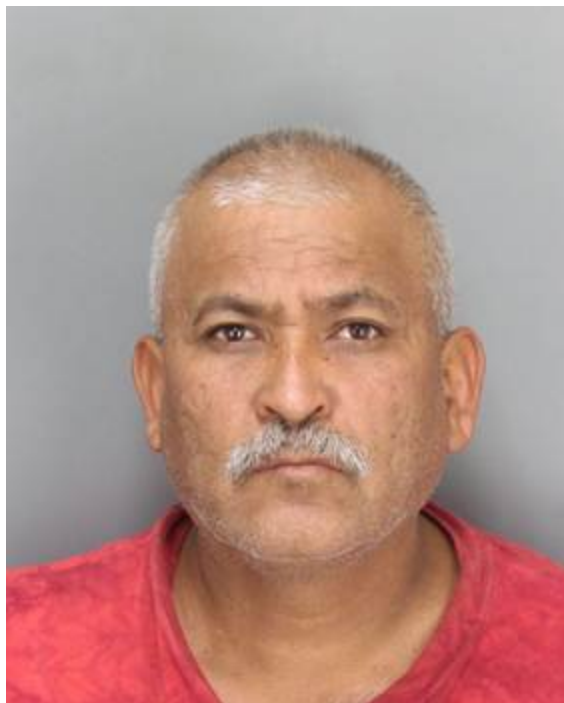


Photo of Victor Alejandre, age 52.



Photo of Leopoldo Gonzalez, age 44.

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